

N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Loree Levy
Kevin Callori
(916) 654-9029

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California's Unemployment Rate Declines to 5.7 Percent Payroll Employment Up 25,800

NOTE TO EDITORS: Data contained in this news release reflect the March 2007 benchmark.

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate was 5.7 percent in February, down from 5.9 percent in January, the state Employment Development Department (EDD) reported today. A year ago, in February 2007, California's unemployment rate was 5.0 percent.

According to EDD's survey of employers, nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 25,800 jobs over the month, for a total of 15,167,500.

According to the separate survey of households, the number of Californians holding jobs in February was 17,217,000. This was a decrease of 2,000 from January, but up 48,000 from the employment total in February of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,043,000 – down by 41,000 over the month, but up by 140,000 compared with February of last year.

Of the unemployed, 468,500 were laid off, 105,500 left their jobs voluntarily, and the remaining were either new entrants or reentrants into the labor market, or persons who completed temporary jobs.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 480,504 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the February survey week. This compares with 480,858 last month and 400,354 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 49,321 in February 2008, compared with 57,364 in January and 39,496 in February of last year.

(more)

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 15,167,500 in February, a net gain of 25,800 jobs since the January survey. This followed a loss of 29,300 jobs (as revised) in January.

Eight of the categories (**natural resources and mining; trade, transportation and utilities; information; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) added jobs over the month, gaining 35,400 jobs. Information showed the largest gain, up by 11,400 jobs. Three categories (**construction; manufacturing; and financial activities**) reported job declines this month, down 9,600 jobs. Financial activities posted the largest decline over the month, down by 3,500 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (February 2007 to February 2008), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 8,100 jobs (up 0.1 percent).

Six industry divisions (**trade, transportation and utilities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) posted job gains over the year, adding 163,300 jobs. On a numerical basis, government showed the strongest employment growth, adding 49,700 jobs (a 2.0 percent increase). On a percentage of growth basis, educational and health services showed the strongest gain, up 2.7 percent (adding 45,300 jobs).

Four categories (**construction; manufacturing; information; and financial activities**) posted job declines over the year, down 155,200 jobs. Construction employment showed the largest decline on both a numerical and percentage basis, down by 78,500 jobs (a decline of 8.6 percent). One category, **natural resources and mining**, had no change over the year.

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (**NOT** SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Over the month, employment in **educational and health services** recorded the largest non-seasonally adjusted gain, up by 30,500 jobs. Most of the gains were in educational services, which added 20,900 jobs. **Trade, transportation and utilities** recorded the greatest non-seasonally adjusted loss, down by 13,000 jobs. The losses were centered in the retail trade sector, which declined by 19,800 jobs.

Government reported the largest gain over the year, up 50,700 jobs. The gains were mostly in local and state government, which were up by 35,600 jobs and 14,900 jobs, respectively. The largest decrease over the year was in **construction**, which was down by 71,800 jobs. The losses were mainly in specialty trade contractors, down 53,700 jobs, and residential building construction, down 17,300 jobs.

NOTE TO EDITORS: *EDD encourages those who are filing for unemployment insurance benefits to do so on-line through our Web site at www.edd.ca.gov. On-line claim filing is the fastest, most convenient way to apply for unemployment benefits, and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	February 2008 (prelim.)	January 2008 (revised)	February 2007	Change Over 12 months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	15,167.5	15,141.7	15,159.4	0.1
Natural resources and mining	25.9	25.7	25.9	0.0
Construction	834.5	837.6	913.0	-8.6
Manufacturing	1,447.1	1,450.1	1,473.1	-1.8
Trade, transportation and utilities	2,922.5	2,915.1	2,907.7	0.5
Information	461.7	450.3	471.2	-2.0
Financial activities	882.0	885.5	923.2	-4.5
Professional and business services	2,287.9	2,287.8	2,260.5	1.2
Educational and health services	1,694.7	1,684.6	1,649.4	2.7
Leisure and hospitality	1,566.5	1,561.9	1,545.7	1.3
Other services	516.5	515.4	511.2	1.0
Government*	2,528.2	2,527.7	2,478.5	2.0
Agriculture	381.9	396.0	366.5	4.2

*Includes all civilian employees of federal, state, and local governments.

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

	February 2008 (prelim.)	January 2008 (revised)	December 2007	February 2007
Civilian labor force ^a	18,260,000	18,303,000	18,319,000	18,072,000
Total civilian employment	17,217,000	17,219,000	17,240,000	17,169,000
Unemployment	1,043,000	1,084,000	1,079,000	903,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.0
US seasonally adjusted rate %	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.5

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	February 2008 (prelim.)	January 2008 (revised)	December 2007	February 2007
Civilian labor force ^a	18,230,000	18,248,000	18,352,000	18,073,000
Total civilian employment	17,119,000	17,086,000	17,272,000	17,103,000
Unemployment	1,111,000	1,162,000	1,080,000	970,000
Unadjusted rate %	6.1	6.4	5.9	5.4

^aLabor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.

**MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES
FEBRUARY 2008 (Preliminary); 2007 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	18,230,000	17,118,700	1,111,300	6.1%
ALAMEDA	754,100	715,900	38,200	5.1%
ALPINE	760	720	40	5.2%
AMADOR	18,230	16,910	1,320	7.2%
BUTTE	105,400	97,200	8,200	7.8%
CALAVERAS	20,980	19,330	1,650	7.9%
COLUSA	10,470	8,490	1,980	18.9%
CONTRA COSTA	526,300	498,800	27,500	5.2%
DEL NORTE	11,380	10,450	930	8.2%
EL DORADO	95,500	89,400	6,100	6.3%
FRESNO	433,900	388,000	45,900	10.6%
GLENN	12,540	11,220	1,320	10.5%
HUMBOLDT	60,400	56,200	4,200	6.9%
IMPERIAL	68,500	57,600	10,900	15.9%
INYO	9,440	8,870	570	6.0%
KERN	352,600	317,400	35,200	10.0%
KINGS	59,100	52,600	6,500	11.0%
LAKE	25,320	22,890	2,430	9.6%
LASSEN	12,990	11,580	1,410	10.8%
LOS ANGELES	4,955,100	4,684,900	270,200	5.5%
MADERA	64,200	58,000	6,200	9.7%
MARIN	137,300	132,000	5,300	3.9%
MARIPOSA	8,770	8,030	740	8.4%
MENDOCINO	43,280	40,260	3,020	7.0%
MERCED	105,500	91,400	14,100	13.4%
MODOC	3,850	3,380	470	12.1%
MONO	9,270	8,870	400	4.3%
MONTEREY	204,000	180,600	23,400	11.5%
NAPA	73,500	70,100	3,400	4.7%
NEVADA	51,120	48,060	3,060	6.0%
ORANGE	1,621,700	1,552,400	69,300	4.3%
PLACER	175,600	165,700	9,900	5.6%
PLUMAS	10,530	9,170	1,360	13.0%
RIVERSIDE	909,300	845,700	63,600	7.0%
SACRAMENTO	694,600	652,100	42,500	6.1%
SAN BENITO	26,100	23,300	2,800	10.7%
SAN BERNARDINO	882,500	827,200	55,300	6.3%
SAN DIEGO	1,540,300	1,463,500	76,800	5.0%
SAN FRANCISCO	436,400	417,300	19,100	4.4%
SAN JOAQUIN	299,200	269,600	29,600	9.9%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	137,300	130,800	6,500	4.7%
SAN MATEO	382,300	367,400	14,900	3.9%
SANTA BARBARA	215,300	204,200	11,100	5.2%
SANTA CLARA	858,100	815,200	42,900	5.0%
SANTA CRUZ	149,100	137,000	12,100	8.1%
SHASTA	85,800	77,400	8,400	9.8%
SIERRA	1,670	1,460	210	12.7%
SISKIYOU	19,200	16,860	2,340	12.2%
SOLANO	210,500	197,700	12,800	6.1%
SONOMA	263,400	250,400	13,000	4.9%
STANISLAUS	233,400	208,100	25,300	10.8%
SUTTER	43,000	37,600	5,400	12.6%
TEHAMA	25,540	23,210	2,330	9.1%
TRINITY	5,150	4,400	750	14.6%
TULARE	193,200	171,000	22,200	11.5%
TUOLUMNE	26,540	24,420	2,120	8.0%
VENTURA	424,300	401,000	23,300	5.5%
YOLO	98,400	90,900	7,500	7.6%
YUBA	28,000	24,800	3,200	11.5%